10/591014 IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 9 AUG 2006

Customer No. 28596 Attorney Docket No. MI/275

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hiroyasu Kikukawa

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: (Simultaneously Herewith)

For: Elastic Member, Toner Fixing Element and)

Device, and Method For Manufacturing

Elastic Member

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Group Art Unit: Examiner:

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Suzanne M. Hearn

<u>August 29, 2006</u> (date of mailing document)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Copies of the non-U.S. patent references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

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Date: August 29, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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To Be Assigned **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** FILING DATE *EXAMINER CLASS SUBCLASS DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE NAME IF APPROPRIATE INITIAL 29 130 5,123,151 6/23/1992 Uehara et al 5,345,300 9/6/1994 Uehara et al 355 285 U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS FILING DATE *EXAMINER DATE NAME CLASS SUBCLASS DOCUMENT NUMBER IF APPROPRIATE INITIAL **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS** TRANSLATION DOCUMENT NUMBER SUBCLASS DATE COUNTRY CLASS YES NO ✓ JP11-257345 9/21/1999 Japan JP62-285839 12/11/1987 Japan JP63-19688 01/27/1988 Japan JP9-244450 9/19/1997 Japan JP10-111613 4/28/1998 Japan OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) **DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER** *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not

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